

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:162
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2000
INTERNET TELEPHONY
BHERU LAL MEENA;PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to permit Internet Telephony and also provide more outlets for cyber information centers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) & (b) :As per NTP`99, Internet Telephony shall not be permitted at this stage. However, Government will continue to monitor the technological innovations and their impact on national developments and review this at appropriate time.

Government has already planned to convert PCO's wherever justified, into public teleinfo centers having multimedia capability like ISDN Services, Remote Data Base Access, Government & Community Information Systems. It has also been decided to open internet dhabas at block Headquarter level.

(c) Quality of service provided by internet telephony is presently not at par with that achieved with the present telecom network. Besides, presently the provisioning of telephones in rural and backward areas is being cross subsidized by revenues from long distance network. Internet telephony is expected to reduce these revenues and therefore allowing it at this juncture may have an adverse effect in achieving the desired teledensity in the country. Countries, which have allowed internet telephony, generally have achieved reasonable levels of teledensity.